

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 1 (Chapters 1–4)**

**1 Comprehension**

1	Who...	... is: 'at least two in powerful positions in the Navy, one in the army and three in the Air Force – and several members in Intelligence'?
2		... rescued a girl and important secret documents, and were thanked by a grateful country?
3		... was a nurse during the Great War?
4		... believes in Nazi aims and wants a Nazi government here?
5		... escaped from Germany just one month before the War started?
6	Whose...	... father was killed by the English during the Great War?
7		... job is to patrol the streets at night to make sure no lights are showing to attract the German bomber pilots?
8		... husband works in London?

**2 Comprehension**

- 1 Why is Tommy suited to the job?
- 2 Why are so many people staying there?
- 3 After she speaks to Carl von Deinim, Tuppence says to herself 'Mrs Blenkinsop, you stopped being a silly man-chaser then. Pay more attention in future.' What does she mean?
- 4 Why does Grant say 'It shows you, though, how careful you've got to be not to be overheard.' What happened?
- 5 How does Tuppence know that she did not overhear Mrs Perenna on the phone at Sans Souci?

**3 Language**

Some of the characters in the story have strong accents. Match the people to what they say. Add a 'translation' into 'standard' English.

Who		What they say. . .	What it means. . .
Mrs O'Rourke		baby	Nazer
von Deinim		Irish	It's a language of their own they have.
Betty		German	You go back to <i>Sans Souci</i> now?

**4 Language**

'Anagrams' are a popular puzzle in the UK. Rearrange the letters of each phrase to make **one** new word each and write it in the gap. All the words are in the glossary. (If you are

having problems, there is a clue at the bottom of this page: the first letter of each word. . .)

e.g. 'rail T' = 'Farquhar must have been on their trail.'

- 1 'king tint' = An elderly woman, wearing many necklaces, was \_\_\_\_\_ a balaclava.
- 2 'a red hover' = 'And you \_\_\_\_\_ everything?'
- 3 'fee urge' = 'He's a \_\_\_\_\_. Got out of Germany a month before the war.'
- 4 'I sent on' = And then suddenly the \_\_\_\_\_ broke as a little figure ran along the top hall – little Betty Sprot.
- 5 'I trip atoms' = 'Yes, I hate \_\_\_\_\_! Betraying your country – dying for your country – serving your country.'

**5 Vocabulary**

Navy	widow	sea front	widower
traitor	Air Force	cliff	intern
confidential	Intelligence	persecution	code
prisoner	Army	cancel	beach
married	pier	wife	concentration
camp	secret	husband	spy
agent	martyr		

Match the words to the groups. The order of the words (1, 2, 3, 4) is not important.

	1	2	3	4
<i>marriage or single?</i>				
<i>at the seaside</i>				
<i>von Deinim's brothers</i>				
<i>don't be overheard!</i>				
<i>protecting the country</i>				
<i>heroes or criminals?</i>				

(Clue to activity 4: 1 = k..., 2 = o..., 3 = r..., 4 = t..., 5 = p...)

**N or M?**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 2 (Chapters 5–7)**

**1 Comprehension**

- 1 Why does Tuppence tell everyone that her son uses a secret code?  
.....
- 2 How does Tuppence know that her letter has been read?  
.....
- 3 Why did Tuppence go to London?  
.....
- 4 Who did Tommy see go into Tuppence's room?  
.....
- 5 What strange thing does Betty do while she is in Tuppence's room?  
.....
- 6 Why does Tuppence have to change books when she wants to read Betty a story?  
.....
- 7 Why did Mrs Sprot run upstairs before Major Bletchley reported Betty's kidnapping?  
.....
- 8 Why doesn't Haydock fire his gun at the Polish woman?  
.....

**2 Comprehension**

After Tommy sees von Deinim go into Tuppence's room, he and Tuppence decide the following (match the people to the theory):

Mrs Perenna	Carl von Deinim
Sheila and Mrs Perenna	the Polish woman

A		B
_____	must	be in charge.
He	might be	working with _____.
_____	could	probably in Leahampton, for orders or to deliver messages.
_____	is	be a spy trying to find out about the movements of the British armed forces.

**3 Vocabulary**

Which of these groups of words are 'word families' (that is, they have related meanings)?

- 1 Tommy Deborah Tuppence
- 2 wind cold rain

- 3 glove lock naughty
- 4 passage dining room kitchen
- 5 dirty frightening clean

volunteers	soldiers	cove	woollen shawl
the Front	cliff	sea	balaclava
transmitter	airmen	safe	cove
concrete steps	shiver	collapse	esplanade
petrol tanks	tremble		

Draw 3 lines through this box to make 5 more word families.

- 1 Which word is a kind of radio?  
.....
- 2 Which word can you wear over your face?  
.....
- 3 Which word can you put secrets in?  
.....
- 4 Which word is paid no money when they work?  
.....
- 5 Which word does this when it's cold?  
.....

**4 Comprehension**

When they discover Betty has been kidnapped, how do people react? Match the person to the reaction.

Mr Cayley	Major Bletchley	Mrs Perenna	Mrs Sprot
Mrs O'Rourke	Meadowes	Carl von Deinim	

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ wants to ring the police.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ is sure the kidnapper will do what it says in the note.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ thinks it's a practical joke, not a real kidnapping.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ wants to ring the police.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ thinks they can't risk Betty's life.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't know British police well enough to judge.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ thinks they should go after Betty by themselves.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 3 (Chapters 8–11)**

**1 Comprehension**

Answer the questions about Tommy and Tuppence's daughter.

- 1 Why is Tuppence's daughter Deborah worried?  
.....
- 2 What does Tony Marsdon think?  
.....
- 3 What was missing from Deborah's room?  
.....
- 4 Who had been in the room?  
.....
- 5 What does Deborah think about Tuppence as a spy?  
.....

**2 Comprehension**

Put the events during Tommy's evening with Haydock in order. The first one has been done for you.

- \_\_\_ He walks back to *Sans Souci* with them.
- \_\_\_ Appledore is shocked and spills some whisky on Tommy.
- \_\_\_ Tommy and Haydock chat in a friendly way.
- \_\_\_ He slips on the soap and falls against the bath.
- \_\_\_ Haydock comes into the bathroom.
- \_\_\_ Tommy sees a radio in a cupboard hidden behind the bath.
- 1 Tommy says 'N or M' to test Appledore.
- \_\_\_ As Tommy leaves, he meets some men from the golf club.
- \_\_\_ Tommy pretends that he thinks the radio belonged to the German spy who lived here before Haydock.
- \_\_\_ Tommy goes to the bathroom to wash his hands.
- \_\_\_ He says goodbye, and is about to open the door, when someone hits him on the head.
- \_\_\_ The bath slides out from the wall.

**3 Vocabulary**

Find the 14 words you need to complete these lines from Tuppence's conversation with Anthony. All the words are only either vertical or horizontal (▼►)

D	C	X	Z	Q	F	X	M	F	A
E	O	Z	F	L	A	T	A	A	N
F	U	H	I	N	T	Z	R	S	N
I	L	E	X	Q	A	Q	S	C	O
N	D	R	Q	Z	L	Z	D	I	Y
I	C	O	D	I	N	G	O	S	I
T	R	I	C	K	E	D	N	T	N
E	Q	N	B	E	H	I	N	D	G
L	Z	E	X	P	R	E	S	S	Q
Y	B	S	U	P	P	O	S	E	D

- 1 I came to the f\_\_\_\_\_ with Deborah one day.
- 2 It was a\_\_\_\_\_ to have been recognised by one of Deborah's young men just now.
- 3 'I'm Anthony M\_\_\_\_\_', explained the young man.
- 4 I'm s\_\_\_\_\_ to be a beginner in the c\_\_\_\_\_ department.
- 5 My instructions are to e\_\_\_\_\_ views that are mildly F\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 There's a good deal of dangerous talk like that going on, you see, and we want to find out who's b\_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 7 It would be f\_\_\_\_\_ if any h\_\_\_\_\_ of who you are was discovered.
- 8 I thought perhaps you c\_\_\_\_\_ pretend you'd joined Captain Beresford in Scotland or wherever he is.
- 9 Beautiful h\_\_\_\_\_ in books are always easily t\_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 When Tommy and I want the other to know a letter is d\_\_\_\_\_ from one of us, we use at least part of that old phrase.

**4 Language**

Use the phrases in the box to complete Tuppence's theories.

must have	must mean	would	might
have been	can't		

- 1 Vanda and Von Deinim \_\_\_\_\_ been working together.
- 2 The Sprots have no money, so the kidnapping \_\_\_\_\_ have been for ransom money.
- 3 The note's words 'Say nothing. Wait for instructions' \_\_\_\_\_ something.
- 4 Mrs Sprot or her husband \_\_\_\_\_ given something to keep by a spy.
- 5 People \_\_\_\_\_ never guess that ordinary people like the Sprots were keeping a secret.

**N or M?**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Part 4 (Chapters 12–15)**

**1 Comprehension**

Match the characters to their real identities.

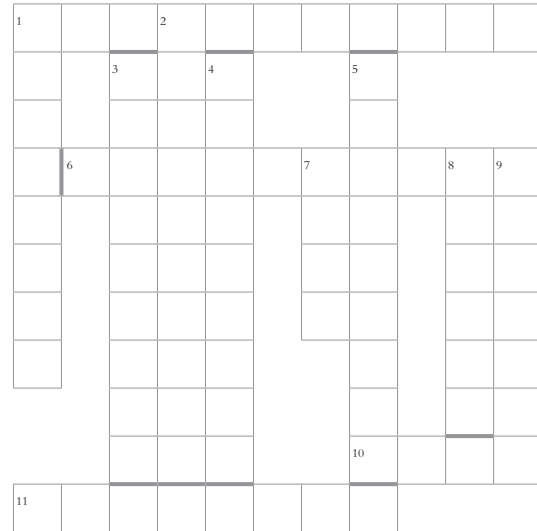
Anthony Marsdon	Vanda's daughter
Betty	Fifth Columnist
Commander Haydock	M
Farquhar	a female Nazi spy
fisherman	murdered British agent
M	Mr Meadows
Mr Faraday (on the telephone)	Mrs Blenkinsop
Mrs Sprot	Nurse Freda Elton
N	a male Nazi spy
Tommy	N
Tuppence	Mr Grant

**2 Comprehension**

Tuppence is a clever agent: she pretends to follow Anthony Marsdon's plan, but secretly follows her own plan, with help from Albert and Grant. The main events of the two plans are below. They are in the correct order, but they are mixed up. Can you label them correctly: '1' is Anthony Marsdon's plan, '2' is Tuppence's. Each has 7 lines. The first one of each has been done for you.

- 1 2 Tuppence was suspicious of Anthony Marsdon.
- 2 1 A parachutist landed.
- 3 \_\_\_ She was seen and captured.
- 4 \_\_\_ She lay a trap for him, telling him about a false code between her and Tommy.
- 5 \_\_\_ The parachutist was dressed as a hospital nurse.
- 6 \_\_\_ She told Albert that Anthony was a Fifth Columnist.
- 7 \_\_\_ She looked like Tuppence: medium height, middle-aged, with dark hair and with a slim figure.
- 8 \_\_\_ Albert left aniseed in a puddle outside the gate of *Sans Souci*.
- 9 \_\_\_ She kicked the car tyres to put the smell of aniseed on them.
- 10 \_\_\_ In the woman's pocket there was a piece of paper with Dr Binion's address.
- 11 \_\_\_ Tuppence is eager to follow Anthony Marsdon's plan.
- 12 \_\_\_ Grant and Albert used dogs to follow the smell of aniseed and rescue Tuppence.
- 13 \_\_\_ Skilful makeup added several years to her age.
- 14 \_\_\_ When she found out that 'Goosey, Goosey, Gander' was important, she realized who M must be.

**3 Language**



**Across**

- 1 wanting to have fun by playing harmless tricks
- 6 information, which is often inaccurate, distributed by an organization in order to influence people
- 10 a trick that is intended to catch or deceive someone
- 11 something that appears to exist or to be a particular thing but in reality does not exist or is something else

**Down**

- 1 the comfortable part of a bed which you sleep on
- 3 a device which enables a person to jump from an aircraft
- 4 feeling sad and unable to enjoy anything
- 5 someone who is blamed for something that is not their fault so that the guilty people escape blame or punishment
- 7 serious, stern, unattractive, depressing
- 8 fear, worry or disappointment
- 9 make someone else's child legally yours

**4 Follow-up activity**

Now see if you can use 6 of the words in sentences from the story. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 'You don't understand the force of the German propaganda. It appeals to something in a man.'
- 2 'A few yards of material pushed into a bush create a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_, Mrs Blenkinsop!'
- 3 'I don't know what you mean, Dr Binion. I landed by \_\_\_\_\_ this morning.'
- 4 The Nazis let von Deinim leave Germany easily to act as a \_\_\_\_\_ and protect agent M.
- 5 'But why did Mrs Sprot want to adopt the child?' – '\_\_\_\_\_!'
- 6 His voice took on a \_\_\_\_\_ note as he added, 'And I should advise you not to make any noise.'

**ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)**

**Part 1 (Chapters 1–4)**

**1 Comprehension**

- 1 German spies / the 'Fifth Column'
- 2 Tuppence and Tommy
- 3 Tuppence
- 4 the 'Fifth Column'
- 5 Carl von Deinim
- 6 Sheila's
- 7 Commander Haydock, the Air Raid Precaution Warden
- 8 Mrs Sprot

**2 Comprehension**

- 1 He has experience, but he left the Intelligence Service twenty years ago, so people don't know his face anymore.
- 2 They think London is too dangerous. Nazis won't bomb the countryside.
- 3 She must be careful – she must always pretend to be Mrs Blenkinsop, or people will become suspicious.
- 4 He means there are lots of spies. He's talking about Tuppence overhearing his conversation with Tommy.
- 5 Because Mrs Perenna is behind her when she is listening in the hall.

**3 Language**

Mrs O'Rourke = *Irish*: It's a language of their own they have. 'They have their own language.'  
 von Deinim = *German*: You go back to *Sans Souci* now? 'Are you going back to *Sans Souci* now?'  
 Betty = *baby*: Nazer! 'Nazi(s)!'

**4 Language**

- 1 knitting
- 2 overheard
- 3 refugee
- 4 tension
- 5 patriotism

**5 Vocabulary**

(The order of the words does not matter.)  
*marriage or single?*:  
 widow, widower, married, husband, wife  
*von Deinim's brothers*:  
 concentration camp, persecution, intern, prisoner  
*at the seaside*:  
 pier, cliff, beach, sea front  
*heroes or criminals?*:  
 traitor, spy, agent, martyr  
*don't be overheard!*:  
 censor, secret, code, confidential  
*protecting the country*:  
 Army, Navy, Air Force, Intelligence

**Part 2 (Chapters 5–7)**

**1 Comprehension**

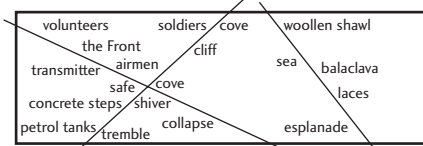
- 1 She wants to know if anyone in the house is a spy, so her letters are a trap.
- 2 She deliberately put an eyelash in the paper, so that if someone read it, it would fall out and she would know it had been read.
- 3 To give Tommy the chance to watch her room and see if anyone went in to read the letter from her 'son'.
- 4 Only Carl von Deinim went into Tuppence's room alone. He stayed there for a long time.
- 5 She puts her shoelaces in water.
- 6 Betty gets upset – she only wants to use the nice new clean books.
- 7 To get the note from her room.
- 8 The woman and Betty are too far away. He is afraid he will hit Betty by mistake.

**2 Comprehension**

Carl von Deinim **must** be a spy trying to find out about the movements of the British armed forces.  
 He **might be** working with Sheila and Mrs Perenna.  
Mrs Perenna **could** be in charge.  
The Polish woman **is** probably in Leahampton, for orders or to deliver messages.

**3 Vocabulary**

- 1 Tommy Deborah Tuppence
- 2 wind cold rain
- ~~3 glove lock naughty~~
- 4 passage dining room kitchen
- ~~5 dirty frightening clean~~



- 1 transmitter
- 2 balaclava
- 3 safe
- 4 volunteers
- 5 shiver

**4 Comprehension**

- 1 Major Bletchley wants to ring the police.
- 2 Mrs Sprot is terribly upset and is sure the kidnapper will do what it says in the note.
- 3 Mr Cayley thinks it's a practical joke, not a real kidnapping.
- 4 Meadowes wants to ring the police.
- 5 Mrs O'Rourke thinks they can't risk Betty's life.
- 6 Carl von Deinim doesn't know British police well enough to judge.
- 7 Mrs Perenna thinks they should go after Betty by themselves.

**Part 3 (Chapters 8–11)**

**1 Comprehension**

- 1 Because Tuppence said she was in Cornwall, but Deborah's boyfriend found that she hadn't been there at all.
- 2 Maybe Tuppence is having an affair with another man.
- 3 A photograph of her with her parents.
- 4 Only Gladys the maid and a man from the Gas Company.
- 5 She thinks she couldn't be a good spy. She thinks Tuppence exaggerates what she did in the last war, to make herself seem more important.

**2 Comprehension**

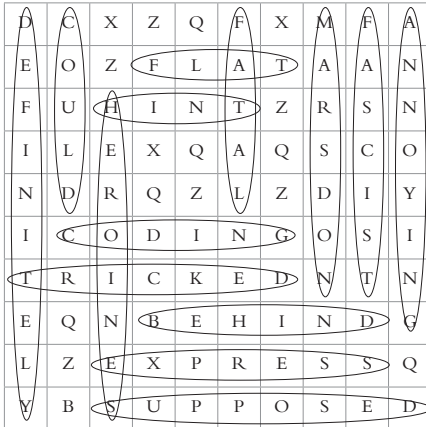
- 11 He walks back to *Sans Souci* with them.
- 2 Appledore is shocked and spills some whisky on Tommy.
- 9 Tommy and Haydock chat in a friendly way.
- 4 He slips on the soap and falls against the bath.
- 7 Haydock comes into the bathroom.
- 6 Tommy sees a radio in a cupboard hidden behind the bath.
- 1 Tommy says 'N or M' to test Appledore.
- 10 As Tommy leaves, he meets some men from the golf club.
- 8 Tommy pretends that he thinks the radio belonged to the German spy who lived there before Haydock.
- 3 Tommy goes to the bathroom to wash his hands.
- 12 He says goodbye, and is about to open the door, when someone hits him on the head.
- 5 The bath slides out from the wall.

**3 Vocabulary**

- 1 I came to the flat with Deborah one day.
- 2 It was annoying to have been recognised by one of Deborah's young men just now.
- 3 'I'm Anthony Marsdon,' explained the young man.
- 4 I'm supposed to be a beginner in the coding department.
- 5 My instructions are to express views that are mildly Fascist.
- 6 There's a good deal of dangerous talk like that going on, you see, and we want to find out who's behind it.
- 7 It would be fatal if any hint of who you are was discovered.
- 8 I thought perhaps you could pretend you'd joined Captain Beresford in Scotland or wherever he is.
- 9 Beautiful heroines in books are always easily tricked.
- 10 When Tommy and I want the other to know a letter is definitely from one of us, we use at least part of that old phrase.

## N or M?

Agatha Christie



### 4 Language

- 1 Vanda and Von Deinim must have been working together.
- 2 The Sprots have no money, so the kidnapping can't have been for ransom money.
- 3 The note's words 'Say nothing. Wait for instructions' must mean something.
- 4 Mrs Sprot or her husband might have been given something to keep by a spy.
- 5 People would never guess that ordinary people like the Sprots were keeping a secret.

## Part 4 (Chapters 12–15)

### 1 Comprehension

Anthony Marsdon – Fifth Columnist  
 Betty – Vanda's daughter  
 Commander Haydock – N  
 Farquhar – murdered British agent  
 fisherman – Mr Grant  
 M – a female Nazi spy  
 Mr Faraday (on the telephone) – Mr Grant  
 Mrs Sprot – M  
 N – a male Nazi spy  
 Tommy – Mr Meadows  
 Tuppence – Mrs Blenkinsop  
 Tuppence – Nurse Freda Elton

### 2 Comprehension

- 1 2 Tuppence was suspicious of Anthony Marsdon.
- 2 1 A parachutist landed.
- 3 1 She was seen and captured.
- 4 2 She lay a trap for him, telling him about a false code between her and Tommy.
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- 13 1 Skilful makeup added several years to her age.
- 14 2 When she found out that 'Goosey, Goosey, Gander' was important, she realized who M must be.

### 3 Language

#### Across

- 1 mischievous
- 6 propaganda
- 10 trap
- 11 illusion

#### Down

- 1 mattress
- 2 camouflage
- 3 parachute
- 4 depressed
- 5 scapegoat
- 7 grim
- 8 dismay
- 9 adopt

### 4 Follow-up activity

- 2 'A few yards of material pushed into a bush create a wonderful illusion, Mrs Blenkinsop!'
- 3 'I don't know what you mean, Dr Binion. I landed by parachute this morning.'
- 4 The Nazis let von Deinim leave Germany easily to act as a scapegoat and protect agent M.
- 5 'But why did Mrs Sprot want to adopt the child?' – 'Camouflage!'
- 6 His voice took on a grim note as he added, 'And I should advise you not to make any noise.'